

Serial No.: 10/005,469  
Filed: November 7, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 1648

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

**Claim 23 (new):** An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a replication competent recombinant Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) genome having a nucleic acid sequence of HCVR 9 (SEQ ID NO: 4).

**Claim 24 (new):** The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 23, which nucleic acid molecule is double stranded DNA.

**Claim 25 (new):** The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 23, which nucleic acid molecule is single stranded DNA.

**Claim 26 (new):** The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 23, which nucleic acid molecule is double stranded RNA.

**Claim 27 (new):** The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 23, which nucleic acid molecule is single stranded RNA.

**Claim 28 (new):** An isolated human hepatoma Huh-7 cell line transfected with the isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 23, wherein said cell line is capable of supporting efficient replication of said isolated nucleic acid.

**Claim 29 (new):** The cell line of claim 28 designated HCVR 9 and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-2486.

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**Claim 30 (new):** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, which is produced according to the following steps:

- (a) transfecting the corresponding RNA into human hepatoma cell line Huh-7, followed by
- (b) culturing for about three weeks in the presence of about 1 mg/ml G418, followed by
- (c) transferring of resistant colonies and passaging about 1-2 times a week for at least about two more weeks, followed by
- (d) isolating recombinant replicons from the cell clones characterized by a growth rate which is not more than about 10-fold lower than the growth rate of the Huh-7 cell line prior to transfection.

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